

1. Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 13, 16, 18, 24-25, 28-30 and claims 1-3, 5-11 and 17 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 13-16 and 18-32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Support for new claims 31 and 32 can be found on page 17 of the Specification where it is stated on lines 3-4 and line 17.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-15, 17 and 24-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (USPN: 6,061,702) in view of Bezhad (USPN: 6,759,904). Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11 and 17 have been canceled rendering the rejection moot. Claims 12-15 and 24-30 have been amended to depend from conditionally allowed claims 16 and 18.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, 17, 24, 25 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Sauer (USPN: 6,064,257) in further view of Bezhad. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11 and 17 have been canceled rendering the rejection moot. Claims 24-25 and 28 have been amended to depend from conditionally allowed claim 18.

Claims 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Bezhad in further view of Sauer. Claim 9 has been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 16, and 18-23. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 16 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 13-14 and 19-32 depend from amended claims 16 or 18 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 16 or 18. Therefore, the allowance of claims 13-14, 16 and 18-32 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Cameron', with a long horizontal line extending to the right towards the closing 'Respectfully submitted,'.

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